

# ***Introduction to Chinese American Genealogy***

***Henry Tom***

***May 9, 2019***

***FamilySearch Chinese Genealogy Workshop***

***Salt Lake City, Utah, USA***

# ***Chinese Genealogy Research***

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***Is Chinese genealogy research possible without being Chinese literate ?***

***Yes, with modern technology, it is not only possible, it can also be done successfully.***

***As an American Born Chinese (ABC), who cannot read or write Chinese, I successfully compiled my Chinese family lineage of 148 generations spanning almost 4,700 years.***

# Goals

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- 1 Tracing your family lineage***
  - 2 Visiting ancestral village & environs guide & information***
  - 3 Connecting with relatives in village & China managing relationships***
  - 4 Create legacy for future generation***
- All of the above .....***



# Overseas Chinese

華僑

Hua qiao

Overseas Chinese



*Chinese have emigrated to countries all over the world from various provinces of China, there are millions of overseas Chinese, hence, Chinese genealogy has many flavors.*

*Chinese genealogy is the basic foundation for research within the context of the host country where the Chinese have settled.*

# ***Overseas Chinese Heritage***

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***Origins in China  
with continuing  
Origins in overseas countries  
( America )***

***Chinese American Immigrant Experience***

***American Born Chinese ( ABC's )***

***First Generation: Transitional Generation***

***Chinese and multi-ethnic American ancestry***

# **Chinese *American* Genealogy**

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**Chinese Genealogy + Chinese American  
Immigrant Experience**

***Language***

***Family Genealogy books &***

***Documents***

***Clan Genealogy books***

***Ancestral halls***

***Field work***

***Government & public  
sources & documents***

***Using traditional  
genealogy techniques***

***Online archival  
searches***

# Online Databases

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## ***Federal Sources & Documents***

***Database for Chinese immigrants who entered  
San Francisco, CA and Honolulu, HI, 1881-1955 :  
University of California at Berkeley, Business and Economic Research  
with the collaboration with the National Archives and Records Administration.***

***No longer available online, however, they are available from our workshops***

### **US National Archives and Records Administration ( NARA )**

**<http://www.archives.gov/>**

***The U.S. federal archives has many records of interest to Chinese-American genealogists. For more information, see Chinese Immigration Records***

**<http://www.archives.gov/research/chinese-americans/>**

### ***US National Archives and Records Administration ( NARA )***

***Index to 'Chinese Exclusion' Case Files of the New York District Office of  
the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, ca. 1882-1960.  
New York, USA. National Archives and Records Administration- Northeast Region  
(New York), [April 1998].***

# ***Private Sources & Documents***

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***is the largest genealogy organization in***

***the world. FamilySearch, historically known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, which was founded in 1894, is dedicated to preserving the records of the family of mankind. Its purpose is to help people connect with their ancestors through easy access to historical records.***

***The FamilySearch resources available to the public include records of names exceeding 4 billion collected worldwide (much of it available online), the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (hailed by genealogists as the top research and collections library in the world), and almost 5,000 FamilySearch Centers worldwide. <https://familysearch.org/search>***



# Private Sources & Documents

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**Chinese-American Museum of Chicago**    <http://www.ccamuseum.org/>

*The museum is dedicated to promoting exhibitions, education and research relating to Chinese-American culture and history in the midwestern United States.*



**Chinese-American Contribution to the Transcontinental Railway**

<http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese.html>

*This online exhibition developed by the Central Pacific Railroad Photographic History Museum commemorates the vital role of Chinese labourers in constructing the railroad linking the east and west coasts of the United States.*

**Introduction to the Chinese Exclusion Act Files**    <http://www.paperson.com/history.htm>

*Based on a solo show, "Paper Son", written and performed by Chinese-American Byron Yee. Includes examples of immigration documentation relating to two individuals and containing valuable genealogical information.*

**Museum of Chinese in America**    <http://www.mocanyc.org/>

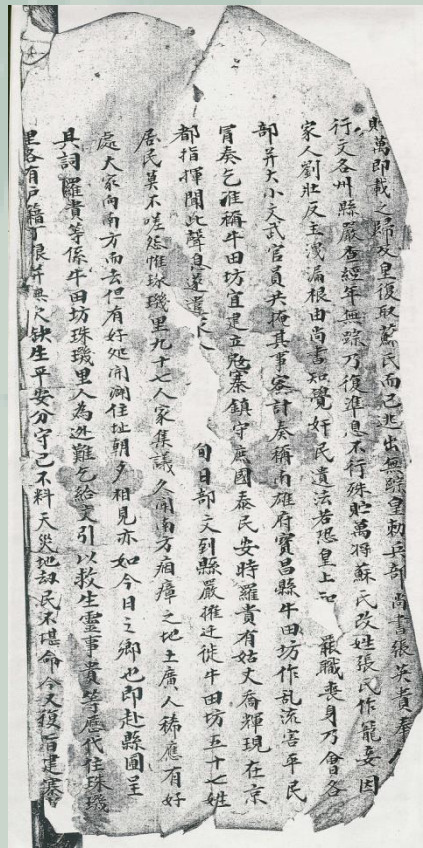
*The New York-based Museum, dedicated to reclaiming, preserving, and interpreting the history and culture of the Chinese and their descendants in the Western Hemisphere, is an important repository of archival materials about Chinese life in America.*

**San Diego Chinese Historical Museum**    <http://www.sdchm.org/>

*The Museum's mission is "to collect, preserve and share the Chinese American experience and Chinese history, culture and art to educate the community and visitors."*

**Canada : Vancouver Public Library** <http://guides.vpl.ca/Chinese-American>

# Language & Literacy



## Sources

Photographs  
Official documents  
Family documents  
Maps  
Diaries  
Oral histories  
Family histories  
All family members  
Names

## Books & Lineages

Many overseas Chinese  
cannot read or write Chinese  
– so Chinese genealogy  
books & lineage charts can  
be major impediments

**\* Recognizing Chinese names in a genealogy lineage - takes practice, dedication, perseverance and time.**  
**Beyond recognizing the Chinese characters of ancestors – there is the issue of “traditional” versus “simplified” Chinese characters**

# Technology for Chinese Characters

**Language:** Online software for translations  
& conversions traditional & simplified Chinese characters

**MWSnap 3:**  
Screen Tool for Capturing Images of Chinese Characters  
[http://download.cnet.com/MWSnap/3000-2072\\_4-10524228.html](http://download.cnet.com/MWSnap/3000-2072_4-10524228.html)

**COCR2:**  
Converts images of Chinese characters into actual Chinese characters  
Optical Character Recognition Tool /Chinese Characters  
<http://users.belgacom.net/chardic/cocr2.html>

**ABBYY FineReader 14 Standard** Scans images of Chinese characters &  
converts them into actual Chinese characters & also translates them

**Google Translate, Pleco, Mdbg, Wenlin - Chinese Dictionaries**  
In the lower left corner of the input box, click on the pencil icon and write the Chinese character: <https://translate.google.com/?hl=en&tab=wT>



**Chinese Characters - True Type Fonts**

# Romanizations

Pinyin / Wade Giles / Cantonese /

Xie / Hsieh / Tse /

Xu / Hsu / Hui /

Chinese Characters  
Traditional / Simplified

謝 / 谢  
許 / 许

**Google ( online tool ) Romanize in Pinyin,  
definition, pronunciation, translates to  
simplified or traditional Chinese characters**

**[http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=en](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en)**



**Mandarin Tools:**

**<http://www.mandarin tools.com/>  
multi – romanizations**



# ***Online Dictionaries & Translators***

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## ***Dictionaries - Translations***

***Pleco Chinese Dictionary***

***<http://www.mandarintools.com/>***

***<http://www.njstar.com>***

***Wenlin***

***[http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=en](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en)***

***<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>***



## ***Translations of Chinese to English:***

***is expensive - need the help of a Chinese reader to advise on what needs to be translated & find others to share costs.***



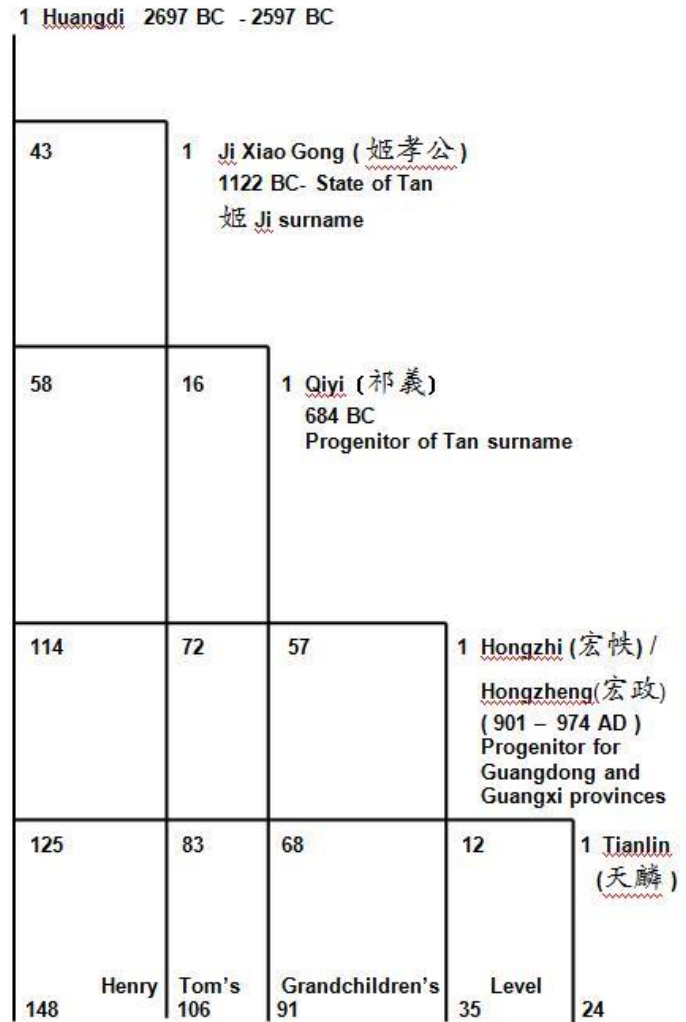
# Concepts and Terminology

## Linking Lineages:

**Chinese genealogy is not biographical, the focus was to document the clan & family lineage trees.**

**Linking a series of family lineage segments - so that a pedigree of over 140 generations is possible**

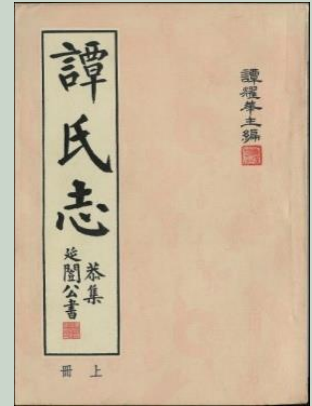
### Tan Genealogy Lineages



# Chinese Genealogy Books

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|                       |    |                             |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| <b><i>Jia pu</i></b>  | 家譜 | family register             |
| <b><i>Zu pu</i></b>   | 族譜 | clan register               |
| <b><i>Zong pu</i></b> | 宗譜 | ancestor / general register |



***Village genealogy book*** – Jia pu / Zu pu – can provide the direct line of descent ( pedigree ) of all the male ancestors of your father ( your family lineage )

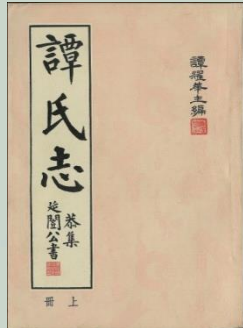
## ***Clan Progenitor / Primogenitor:***

***shiqianzu:*** 始迁祖 First migrating ancestor: province, county, town / city, village – parallel generation counts

***\* family lineage on non sequential pages***

# Chinese Genealogy Books

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Published

***Libraries in China, Hong Kong,  
Taiwan, Japan, and USA –***

***85 % published & 15 % manuscript***

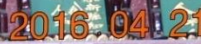


***Private & family sources -***

***85 % manuscript & 15 % published***

Manuscript





# Chinese Names

Given birth name : a name of expectation

譚 Tom family / clan name  
德 moral, virtuous  
欽 respectful

Genealogy name “hao” ( 號 ) given when Chinese males marry

譚 Tom family / clan name  
世 “si” world (bon-pie)  
character from family clan  
generational poem  
強 “kuan” strong

## *Given birth name – a name of expectation*

*Chinese people usually have 3 character names - the first character is the family name, second character is the middle name, 3rd character is the given name. The 2nd & 3rd names usually combine to form a very auspicious name with regard to intelligence, wisdom, wealth etc - a name of "expectation" - generally given by the hopeful parents to a newborn child. Generally, the middle name is the same for that generation of siblings or first cousins of that generation – regardless of gender.*

## *Genealogy name “hao” ( 號 ) given when Chinese males marry*

*Most Chinese family clans have a family/ clan poem, each character of the poem represents a generation. When Chinese males get married - they get a "genealogy name" a (hao). The first character - the family / clan name remains the same, the second character ( bon - pie ) is the character from the family poem that represents his generation and the given name - generally describes that person - as he turned out as an adult. The designation of a hao is not generally practiced anymore and the method of assigning a given name can vary.*



# Generational Poem

## Tom Clan Generational Poem

爾昌友延嗣，捷開文裔光，  
宗傳世澤遠，晉本立道隆，  
積善家國重，學業廣成芳

## Pinyin Romanization

Er Chang You Yan Si, Jie Kai Wen Yi Guang  
Zong Chuan Shi Ze Yuan, Jin Ben Li Dao Long  
Ji Shan Jia Guo Zhong, Xue Ye Guang Cheng Fang

## Translation

If your life is prosperous and flourishing, even your friends will continue refurbishing or establishing temples in remembrance of you and your family. This helps to establish a cultured and civilized society.

If your family continues to be successful generation by generation, it continually benefits the world and makes it more beautiful. Its success is secured only while you are an honest, truthful, and virtuous person with a moral life.

Doing kindly deeds is very helpful for your family and country. If you are successful at this and study well, it may help you to be remembered for generations.

This Tom Generational Poem was translated by Yongping Zhao and edited by Henry Tom  
November 23, 2005

*banci lian* 班次聯  
*or paizi ge* 派字歌

Genealogy name “hao” ( 號 ) given when  
Chinese males marry

譚

Tom family / clan name

世

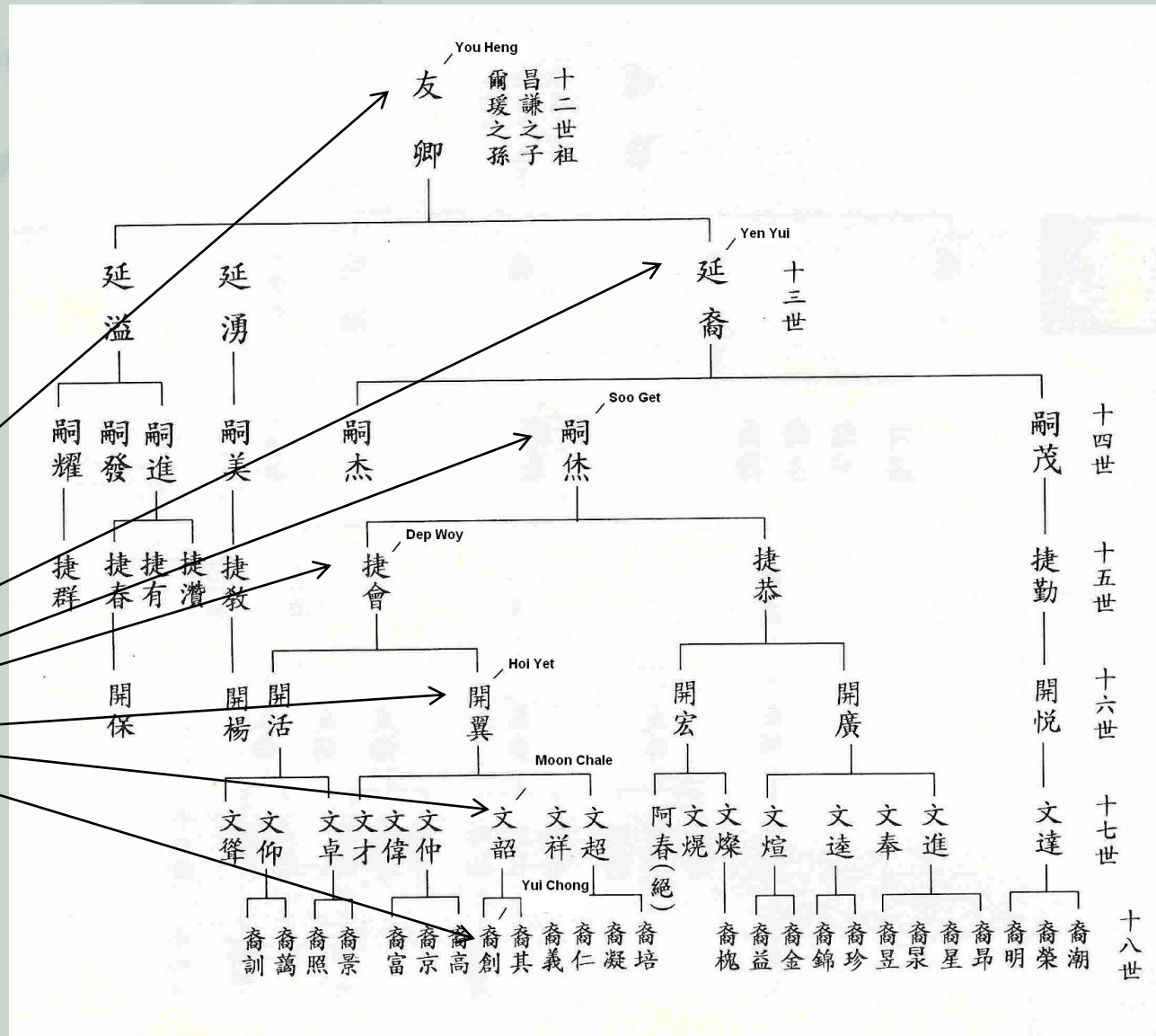
“si” world (bon-pie)

character from family clan  
generational poem

強

“kuan” strong

# Generational Poem



爾昌友延嗣, 捷開文裔光,  
宗傳世澤遠, 晉本立道隆,  
積善家國重, 學業廣成芳

Er Chang You Yan Si, Jie Kai Wen Yi Guang  
Zong Chuan Shi Ze Yuan, Jin Ben Li Dao Long  
Ji Shan Jia Guo Zhong, Xue Ye Guang Cheng Fang

# Chinese Genealogy Research

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***The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the only law in American history to deny citizenship or entry based upon a specific nationality. The only Chinese allowed into the US were merchants, students, diplomats, and sons of citizens. Hence, Chinese sought ways that would allow them to stay / come to America – even illegally.***

***A major unintended consequence was the US Federal government collected & created massive amounts of information on Chinese immigrants that can now be researched for family history and genealogy. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).***

***The Chinese government never collected detailed information on the people, it was the village genealogy book that became the unofficial source of family documentation***

# ***What is Your Surname ?***

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***A "paper son / daughter " is a term used for young Chinese immigrants coming to the United States prior to 1956 who claimed to be a son of a citizen but were, in fact, sons / daughters on paper only.***

***The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 destroyed city hall that contained all birth records in San Francisco. As a result, thousands of Chinese men claimed to have been born in San Francisco and the US government had no choice but to accept their claims. Because of this loophole, some Chinese men would travel to China and fraudulently claim the birth of a son or daughter during their visit and return with birth certificates for children they never had.***

***These birth certificates created slots so that they could be bartered and bought, to bring Chinese to the America. When a young Chinese boy attempted to enter the US as a son of a citizen, he was subjected to a rigorous interrogation by US Immigration Officials to determine if the applicant was a true son of a citizen. Many of these boys would have to memorize details of a village in China and these facts would need to match up with other interviews conducted, usually with the " paper " father and other witnesses. Thus, the paper "surname " was not necessarily the true surname of the " paper " son / daughter.***



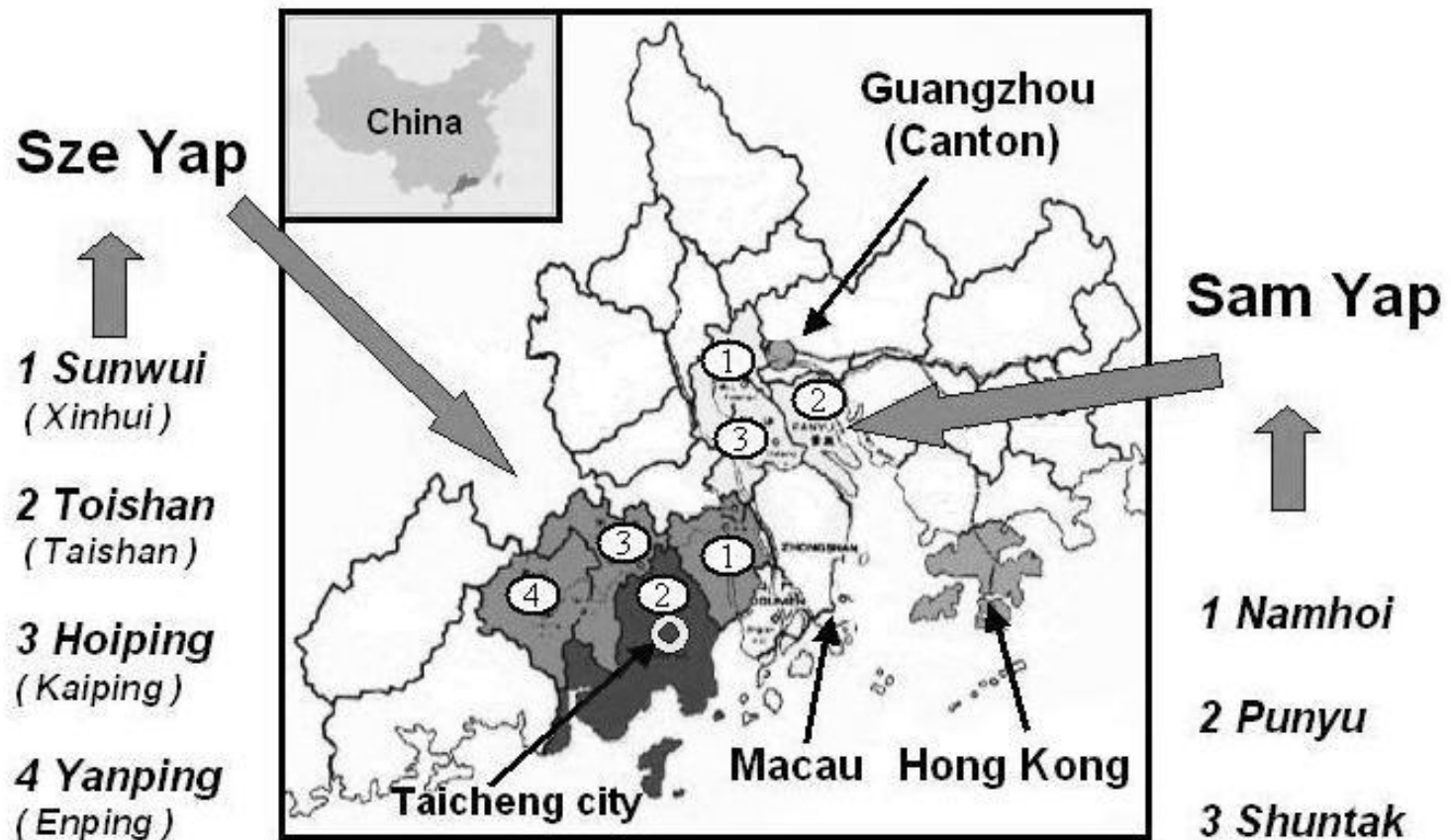
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***father, grandfather, great grandfather***



# Guangdong ( Kwangtung ) Province

## Guangdong (Kwangtung) Province





# ***Chinese Ancestral Village***

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***Provides:***

***where the ancestral home is located***

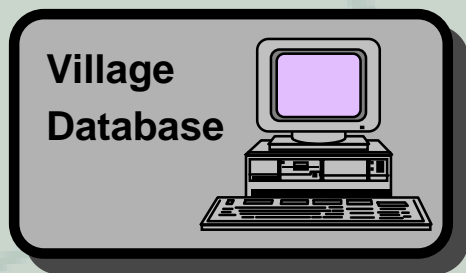
***where relatives reside & are buried***

***location of ancestral hall***

***source of the village genealogy book...***

***and if possible visit your ancestral  
village from where your parents &  
ancestors originated from to go overseas***

# Online Village Database



**Index of Clan Names By Villages (4 volumes) published by the American Consulate General, Hong Kong in the 1960s.**

**Search for village by surname or by village name in Chinese, Cantonese romanization, or Pinyin. Toishan, Hoiping, & Sunwui completed.**

**Village information includes map location by military grid coordinates, however, *they do not have the maps.***

**I posted these maps on the SiYi Forum website:**<http://siyigenealogy.proboards.com/thread/2264/village-db-maps>

## Village DB Search

[Search function is under development. [Comments](#) are appreciated.]

Search tips: Search results don't include subheungs. You can search for pinyin with tones using numbers, e.g., shan1.

### Search by surname

Search for villages with surname

### Search by other

Search for Villages whose name

### Search results

| #  | County                       | Area              | Heung                                               | Village                                              |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <a href="#">台山 / Toishan</a> | <a href="#">1</a> | <a href="#">永康鄉 / Wing Hong Heung</a> (3 subheungs) | <a href="#">陳屋 / Chan Uk</a> (陳 / Chan, Cheung)      |
| 2  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">長沙坑 / Cheung Sar Hang</a> (陳 / Chan)     |
| 3  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">龍窩 / Lung Hor</a> (陳 / Chan)             |
| 4  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">龍窩新 / Lung Hor Sun</a> (陳 / Chan)        |
| 5  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">山頂 / Shan Ting</a> (譚 / Chan, Hom, Chan) |
| 6  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">水蛇坑 / Sui Sher Hang</a> (陳 / Chan)       |
| 7  | "                            | "                 | <a href="#">西南鄉 / Sai Nam Heung</a> (3 subheungs)   | <a href="#">朝龍 / Chiu Lung</a> (陳 / Chan)            |
| 8  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">潮北 / Chiu Pak</a> (陳 / Chan)             |
| 9  | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">朝勝 / Chiu Sing</a> (陳 / Chan)            |
| 10 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">朝陽 / Chiu Yeung</a> (陳 / Chan)           |
| 11 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">富坑 / Fu Hang</a> (陳 / Chan)              |
| 12 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">江南 / Kong Nam</a> (陳 / Chan)             |
| 13 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">吉水 / Kut Sui</a> (陳 / Chan)              |
| 14 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">靠背 / Ling Pui</a> (陳 / Chan)             |
| 15 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">南溪 / Nam Kai</a> (陳 / Chan)              |
| 16 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">南安 / Nam On</a> (陳 / Chan)               |
| 17 | "                            | "                 | "                                                   | <a href="#">安源 / On Yuen</a> (陳 / Chan)              |

<http://villagedb.friendsofroots.org/about.html>

# ***Chinese Gravestones***

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## **Gravestones**



### **Reading Chinese Gravestones**

by Doris Yau-Chong Jones

<https://beneathbukitbrown.wordpress.com/a-guide-to-reading-engravings-on-chinese-tombstones/>

**A remarkable trait about overseas Chinese immigrants is that when they die in a foreign country – their gravestone has their Chinese name, the names of the province, county, and ancestral village name**

**Finding the name of the ancestral village & its location – then gives you possible access to the village genealogy book that contains the family lineage**

# Books

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**Reliance on English & translated Chinese sources;**

## **Books:**

**“You are Royalty: A Guide to Your Chinese Ancestor”, A. R. Chinn**

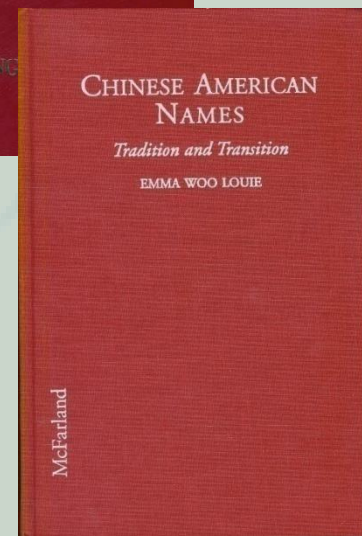
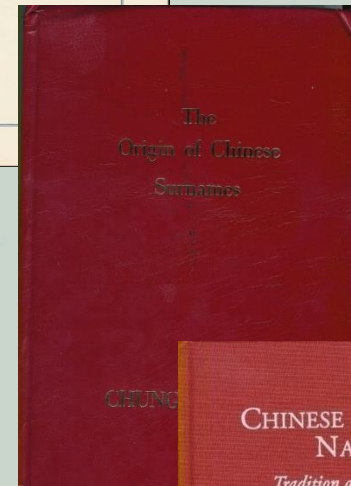
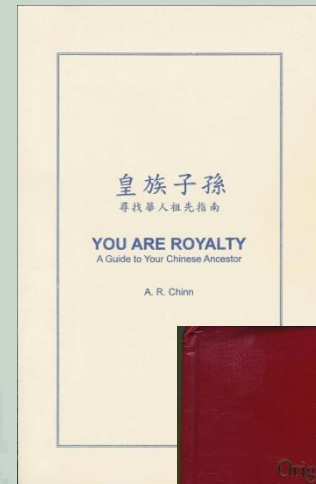
**email: [twoupman@yahoo.com](mailto:twoupman@yahoo.com)**

**Website: <http://houseofchinn.com/>**

**“The Origin of Chinese Surnames”,  
CHUNG Yoon-Ngan**

**email: [chunyn@sdf.lonestar.org](mailto:chunyn@sdf.lonestar.org)**

**“Chinese American Names: Tradition and Transition”, Emma Woo Louie**





# On-line Chinese Genealogy Forums

## SiYi Genealogy

[legacy1.net/](http://legacy1.net/)

Forum

<http://siyigenealogy.boards.com/>

## Chinese Surname Queries

<http://www.ziplink.net/~rey/ch/queries/>

## SiYi Genealogy 四邑家族派系

Home Families General Chinese Diaspora Forums Taishanese About Contact Us Village Database

### PHOTO ALBUM



### Latest Story

## Hoisanva (Taishanese) 台山話 – Lesson 1

Preface Hoisanva 台山話 occupies a unique position in Chinese dialects. According to Professor Horowitz, a visiting professor of Chinese Classics in Columbia University in 1958, it is probably the only dialect that is very close to the dialect that was spoken during the Spring and Autumn period in Chinese history, about 2,500 years ago. Other...

[Read more »](#)

### What's new



With great pleasure we would like to announce that Gene, a renowned linguist, has agreed to share the lessons he developed on Hoisanva or

### Chinese school classmates



In early November received an email from my friend John. It was one of those

SEARCH OUR SITE

Search & Hit Enter

SOME SITES WE LIKE

[dailyQi](#)  
[Art Bytes](#)  
[網緣](#)  
[Smartphone Photos](#)

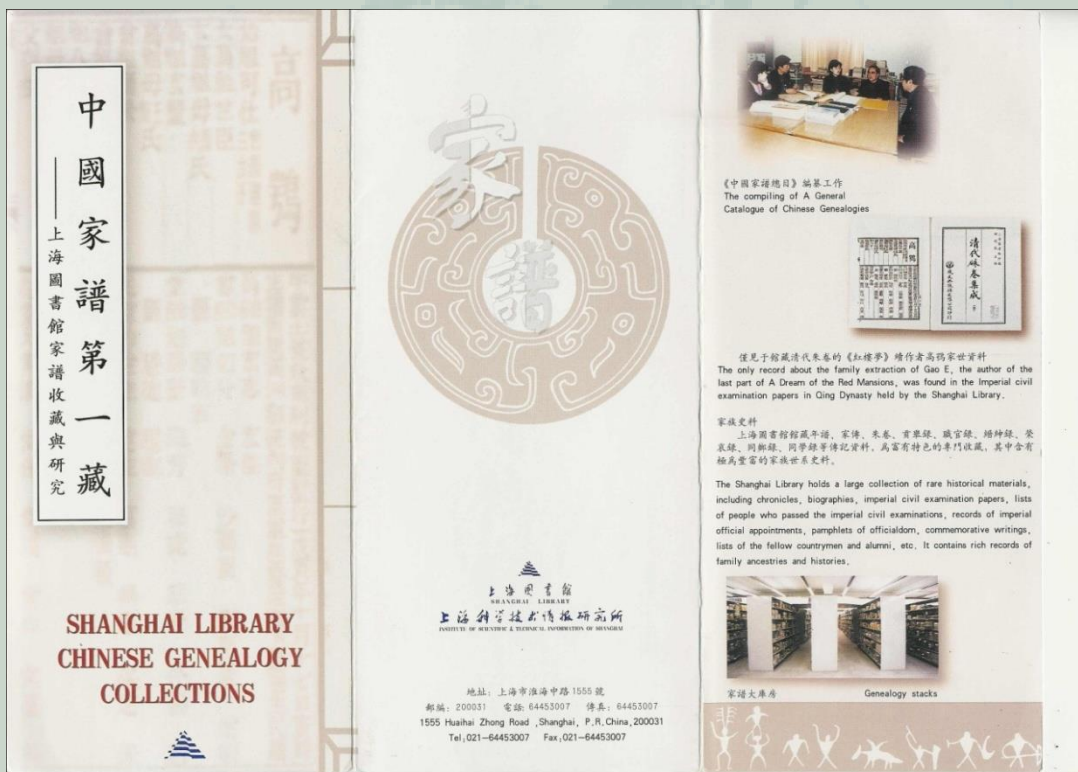
TAGS

[Australia California](#)  
[Canada China](#)  
[Chinese Dai Gong](#)  
[Dufu Elrose Enping](#)

# On-line Chinese Genealogy Sources

## Shanghai Library

## Sources



Gu Yan  
Genealogy Librarian  
Shanghai Library  
1555 Huai Hai Zhong Lu  
SHANGHAI 200031  
China  
Tel. +(86)(21)6445 5004  
Fax +(86)(21)6445 5006  
E-mail: ygu@libnet.sh.cn

<http://www.library.sh.cn/english/>  
Genealogy Searching Service  
Telephone: 021-644-55555  
ext. 1213

**On-line master index to over 50,000 Chinese family genealogies –  
The General Catalog of Chinese Genealogies – 10 volumes (2008)**

# ***On-line Chinese Genealogy Sources***

## ***Family History Library***

***The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints***



***On-line searches with Chinese characters***

***GEDCOM, an acronym for GENEalogical Data COMMunication, is a specification for exchanging genealogical data between different genealogy software***

***[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Chinese\\_Research\\_Helps](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Chinese_Research_Helps)***

***China Collection of Genealogies, 1239-2014 – over 13 million images***

***<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1787988>***

***Major Genealogical Record Sources in Taiwan (1976)***

# ***Library Sources in America***

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***Library of Congress*** - 800,000 vol., 4,000 local gazetteers

***<http://www.loc.gov/rr/asian/china-bib/>***

***C. V. Starr East Asian Library – UC Berkeley***

***Chinese genealogies & gazetteers + 900,000 volumes***

***Weekend Seminar - UC Berkeley – July 13-14, 2019***

***Harvard University -Yenching Library – 475,000 vol.***

***Chinese genealogies & local gazetteers***

***Princeton University*** - 425,000 vol.

***Yale University*** - 413,000 vol.

***University of Chicago*** - 361,000 vol.





# Overseas Chinese Associations

全美昭倫總公所  
**Chew Lun Ben. Assn.,**  
1056 Grant Ave.,  
San Francisco Calif., 94133 U.S.A.  
Tel : (415)9824509

美國三藩市昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Ben. Assn.,**  
1056 Grant Ave.,  
San Francisco Calif., 94133 U.S.A.

美國三藩市譚家公所  
**Tom Family Assn.,**  
817 Clay Street,  
San Francisco Calif., 94108 U.S.A.  
三藩市許高陽堂  
**Huai Kao Young Tong**  
748 Jackson St. APT. 9  
San Francisco Calif., 94133 U.S.A.  
Tel : 1-415-9820656

三藩市謝氏宗親會  
**Tse Family Association**  
748 Jackson Street,  
San Francisco Calif. 94133 U.S.A.  
Tel:1-415-9820656

美國紐約昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Assn.,**  
94 Mott Street, New York.  
N.Y., 10013 U.S.A.  
Tel : (212) 226-4092  
羅省昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Assn.,**  
1027 Doyle Place  
Los Angeles, Calif, 90012 U.S.A.  
Tel : 1-213-222-1666

美京昭倫公所  
C/O Mr. Huey  
9 S. Early St.  
Alexandria, VA 22304 U.S.A.  
Tel:703-370-149

芝城昭倫公所  
244 W. 22nd Place  
Chicago ILL 60616 U.S.A.  
Tel:708-432-6888

美國芝加哥昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Assn.,**  
219 W. Cermak Road  
Chicago 111,60616 U.S.A.

美國西雅圖昭倫公所  
**Chen Lun Association**  
416 7th Avenue South, Seattle,  
Washington, 98104. U.S.A.  
Tel : 206-6822110

美國保地磨昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Assn.,**  
209 W. Mulberry  
Tucson 85719, Ariz. U.S.A.

亞省昭倫公所  
1641 E. Broadway  
Tucson 85719,  
Ariz. U.S.A.

美國華盛頓昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Benevolent Assn.,**  
602A H. Street N.W.  
Washington D.C., 20001 U.S.A.

美國祖魯昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Assn.,**  
2300 S. 6th Avenue  
Tucson Arizona, U.S.A.

美國波士頓昭倫公所  
**Chew Lun Assn.,**  
90 Hudson Street,  
Boston Mass U.S.A.

紐約許高陽堂  
**Huie Kao Yang Tong**  
47 Mott St. Apt. 55  
New York 13 N.Y., U.S.A.

南加州謝氏宗親會  
**Tse Clansmen Assn.**  
649 Hill Place  
Los Angeles, Calif, 90012 U.S.A.

加拿大雲高華許氏宗親會  
**Hoy Clansman Association**  
336 Union Street, Vancouver, B.C.  
V6A 2B3 Canada

加拿大譚氏宗親會  
**Tam's Rene V Olent Association**  
C/O 141 East Pender Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1T6

墨西哥京城昭倫公所  
**Chew Lang Kung Sho,**  
Victoria No.58, Altos 3,  
Mexico (1) D.F.

墨西哥米市卡利昭倫公所  
**Association Chew Lun**  
Av.Juarez No.58  
Mexicali 3. B.C. Mexico

加拿大多倫多昭倫公所  
**Chau Leun Kon Sol,**  
71 D'arcy Street, Toronto  
Ontario, Canada M5T 1J9  
Tel: 416-818-6906,  
Fax: 416-412-7305

加拿大滿地可昭倫親義公所  
**Chau Leun Kon Sol,**  
1105 Clark Street Montreal  
Quebec Canada

加東滿地可譚光裕總堂  
**Hum Quong Yea Tong Society**  
90 Lagauchetiere Street West,  
Montreal, Quebec H2Z 1C1 Canada

加拿大溫哥華昭倫親義公所  
**Chau Leun Society of Vancouver**  
325 Keefer Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6A 1X9  
Tel: 604-2548616

加拿大謝實樹堂  
126, Pender Street E.  
Vancouver, Canada

加拿大渥太華譚氏宗親會  
**The Tam clansmen Assno., of Ottawa**  
125 Authur St.,  
Ottana, Ont, Kir 7c1 Canada

**Associations to help overseas Chinese – organized by:**

**Province, county regions, county, city, Chinese dialect;**

**Economic, guilds, mutual aid societies & martial arts groups;**

**Kinship: multiple family surnames, by surname, multiple associations of the same surname;**

**Surname associations can have international chapters throughout the world.**

# Foreign & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureaus

## Foreign & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureaus & Offices in Guangdong Province, China Guangdong Overseas Chinese Affairs

<http://www.gdnet.com.cn>

Email: [gdsfqb@gdnet.com.cn](mailto:gdsfqb@gdnet.com.cn)

Add: 8 Haishan Jie, Ersha Island Guangzhou 510105

Tel: + 86-20-87353375

Fax: + 86-20-87352060

### Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Enping Municipality 恩平市外事侨务局

<http://waishi.enping.gov.cn>

Email: [wsb@enping.gov.cn](mailto:wsb@enping.gov.cn)

Add: 33 Xidi Henan Road, Enping

Tel: +86 750 7776536

Fax: +86 750 7772238

### Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Heshan Municipality 鹤山市外事侨务局

<http://waishi.heshan.gov.cn/>

Add: 338, Xincheng Road, Shaping, Heshan

Tel: +86 750 8982061

Fax: +86 750 8983217

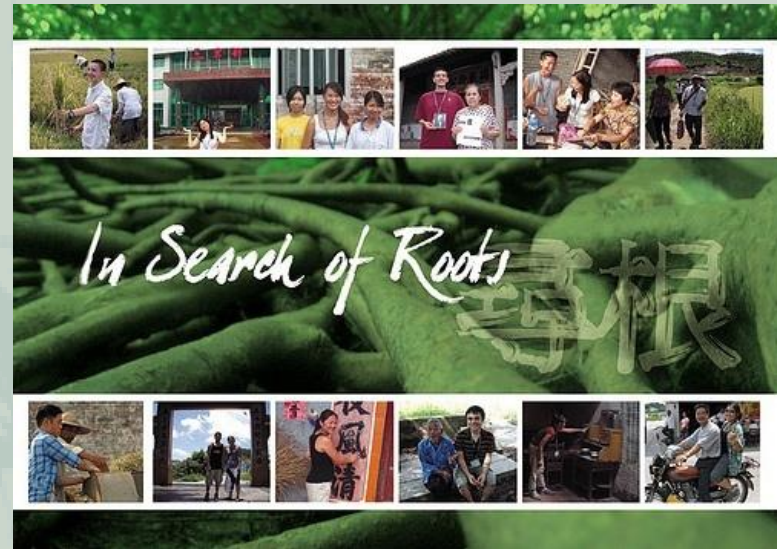
### Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Kaiping Municipality 开平市外事侨务局

<http://wqj.kaiping.gov.cn/index1.asp>

Add: 18 West Changsha Yanjiang Road, Kaiping

Tel: +86 750 2215216

Fax: +86 750 2286842

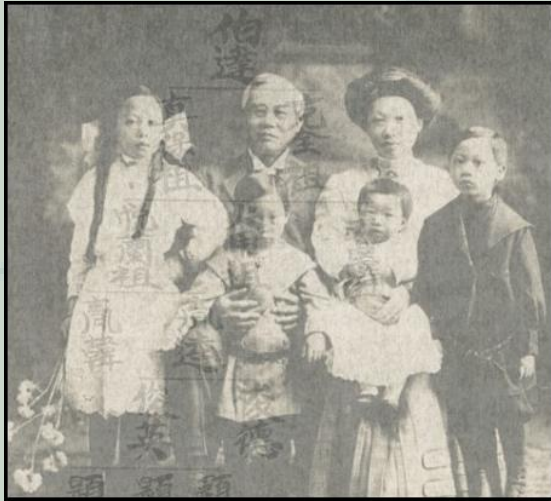


## Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco

*Younger generation - study,  
discovering ancestral villages,  
escorted 2 week tour of SiYi region,  
presentations after tour*

# ***Preserving the Past for the Future***

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***Create Chinese American genealogy scrolls***

***Monograph on family origins in China and America***

***Update clan / family genealogy books in China***

***Distribute multiple copies of clan lineage that includes your family branch***

***English narration & navigation of family lineages in Chinese clan genealogy book***

***Find multiple clan & family lineages to confirm & verify your own family lineage – includes a “ linking “ ancestor [ progenitor ]***



# Tan Genealogy: Heritage and Lineage

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譚

*is the Chinese character, romanized with various spellings such as: Tom, Thom, Tan, Tam, Tham, Taam, Tann, Tain, Tarm, Hom, Hum, Ham, Harm, in most cases, these spellings are English transliterations of this Chinese family surname.*

*The interest and research on Chinese ancestry and genealogy is a quest for our own identity, of who we are, where we come from, and how we have changed; it provides a metric for how far we have come and survived since the arrival of our ancestors, and is a record of the cumulative influences shaping what we are today.*

*It would be wonderful if we could all speak, read and write Chinese in both its traditional and simplified forms, unfortunately, this is not the case and this situation must not be allowed to discourage you in researching your family / clan genealogy. Perhaps in the next life, I will have all these language skills – admittedly, it is harder but not impossible to find your place in the family genealogy lineage.*

*It is also not necessary to try and compile 30 or 40 generations of lineage, if you can identify 2 or 3 of your ancestors in the family lineage – you will have discovered the entire span of lineage before them and also established your place in the lineage.*

Tan Genealogy: Heritage and Lineage

Henry Tom

譚氏族譜  
傳承和世系

**Tan Genealogy:  
Heritage and Lineage**

Henry Tom





# Documenting Your Research

## Leaving Breadcrumbs For the Next Generation

The age old riddle - if a tree falls in the forest, but no one hears it, does it make a sound? Likewise, if our family history is not chronicled, will our forefather's sacrifices be remembered?

*Document family history with more than "just the facts"*

*Color it with personal stories and historical background*

- ~Lots of photos! ~Short stories with historical info ~Join a genealogy group
- ~Start a family tree ~Write in "first person" ~Record elders looking at photos
- ~Start small - focus on 1 person/family at a time ~Journal events and share
- ~Scan relatives photo albums ~ Include research - US Census, immigration
- ~Send out old photos / short stories regularly to keep family engaged
- ~Organize and document as you go, share short, concise summaries

*Genealogy has a shelf life - do it before its too late.*

Family History Examples Chronicled By Journal, Photo Album and Book Form



### Chan China Roots Journal - Henry Tom's Overseas Chinese Genealogy Workshop

- Leaves a trail of breadcrumbs for future visits by providing maps, China travel tips, village contacts and a travel log of major Chan temples and tombs.
- Chronicles discovery of Chan lineage books spanning hundreds of years.
- Each chapter is a short story, with many pages of pictures mixing personal impression, history and researched facts in both English and Chinese.



### Chan American Pictorial Family History

- Four generation pictorial lineage album suitable for short attention span ABC cousins, and left behind in the village for non-English speaking relatives.
- Written in Chinese and English as an "American jiapu" for generations to come in China. Reflects even as ABC, our Chinese heritage is not forgotten.
- Every elder has a "family legacy page" to facilitate genealogy interest.



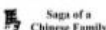
### Honor Flight Report from the Eastern Front Journal

- A daily journal of my father visiting the WWII Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- Included letters of commendation from 2 Presidents, a Senator, and letters from a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class ... who asked dad, "who won the war?".

Alfred Chan



Alfred Chan - The Chan Family Saga Book



Saga of a Chinese Family



The Tom Family History



The Tom Family History

### Alfred Chan - The Chan Family Saga Book

Two different ways taken when writing Tom vs Chan histories - historical vs *oral*.

- Chan family is *not* close. Oral histories are few - so dad's autobiography is tied with the *historical* story of Chinese immigration and world events.
- Heavily annotated with photo's; a family tree; and research including US census, immigration, historical context and military records to add "color".
- Focuses on the immigrant Sacramento Delta experience.

### Saga of a Chinese Family - Tom Family History - A Book that Wrote Itself

- Tom family *is* close, rich with *oral* histories. Each family elder has an autobiography supplemented with stories from nephews and nieces.
- Inclusive of photo albums gathered from each family, and a family tree.
- Focuses on Angel Island experience. Tom book with the Chan Saga, provides a holistic view of the American legacy of my grandparents.

*Documents created with MS Word and a photo editor. That, and a passion to preserve the past.*

*Create event journals, engage relatives, share photos, and family history will write itself.*

Ron Chan

January 2019 Las Vegas Chinese American Genealogy Workshop

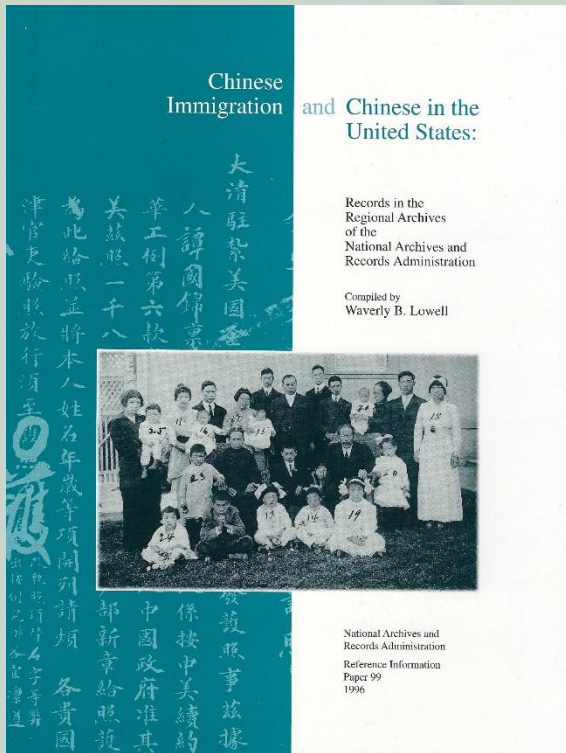
goifferron34@gmail.com

***One Chinese genealogy aficionado decided to do an assortment of monographs.***

***As my ancestors made all manner of sacrifices to protect, preserve, and pass on our clan & family lineages for 4,700 years.***

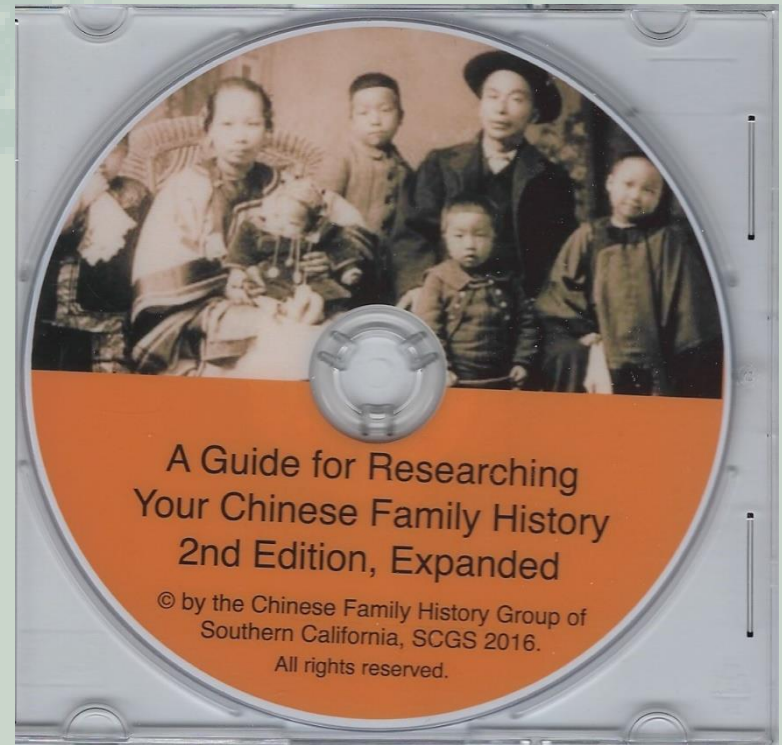
***For me, I feel it is my obligation & duty, with a deep sense of moral commitment - to at the very least, update my clan & family lineages & preserve them for our family's future generations.***

# Chinese American Genealogy Sources



## Chinese Immigration and the Chinese in the United States

<https://www.archives.gov/research/chinese-americans/guide>



## Chinese Family History Group of Southern California

**Patti Dung:**

**Patricia Dung <patriciadung@gmail.com>**

# **Genealogy Workshops**

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## **2019 Chinese American Genealogy Conference**

**June 8 - 9, 2019**

**25 West 43 rd Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY**

**CUNY School of Labor and urban Studies**

**Hosted by:**

**Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI), City  
University of New York and Think ! Chinatown**

## **Chinese American Genealogy Workshop**

**June 23 - 27, 2019 Las Vegas, NV**

**California Hotel & Casino – Maile Room**



# ***Genealogy Workshops***

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## ***Chinese American Genealogy Weekend Seminar***

***July 13 - 14, 2019 University of California, Berkeley***

***Chinese American Sources - UC Berkeley Libraries***

## ***Overseas Chinese Genealogy Workshop & Tours***

***November 4 - 22, 2019, Guangdong, China***

***Pre-workshop - Xiamen & Meizhou – Nov 4 -7***

***Workshop – Ancestral villages– Nov 7 – 18***

***Post-workshop (Hong Kong ) Nov 18 - 22***

# ***My Coordinates***

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***Thank you very much for your attention:***

***Questions ?***

***Henry Tom***

***1987 N 165<sup>th</sup> Drive***

***Goodyear, AZ 85395***

***USA***

***480 980 8715 Mobile***

***[Henry.Tom@Cox.net](mailto:Henry.Tom@Cox.net) email***